

GAVIOTA BOAT HOIST - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Revised 12/2006

The following information has been prepared to answer some of the commonly asked questions about the boat hoist facility at Gaviota State Park.

Q. What's happening with the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park?

A. California State Parks has completed the upgrade of the Gaviota State Park boat hoist recommended by Northeast Engineers & Consultants, thanks to funding from our partners at the California Department of Boating and Waterways.

Q. What are the hours that the hoist is open?

A. For individuals who have not received Hoist Operator certification, hoist operating hours are 8:00 AM to 4:P.M., Saturday-Sunday. State Park staff operates the hoist. Once boaters successfully complete training and are certified to operate the hoist, they will be able to use the hoist seven days a week, weather & swell conditions permitting. Hoist hours of operation for certified operators will be 7:00 AM to one hour before sunset. If no vessels have been launched by 1:00 PM, the hoist will be closed to staff-assisted launching.

Q. Is there a charge to use the hoist?

A. Yes. In addition to the park day-use fee of \$8 per vehicle, there is a fee of \$8 to launch motorized vessels. This applies to hoist launches as well as beach launches. An annual pass is available to frequent park users for \$125. An annual boat use pass is also available for \$75. For more information on these and other passes, visit the California State Parks website at www.parks.ca.gov.

Q. What do I have to do to be able to use the hoist myself?

A. Boaters and their deckhands who want to launch and retrieve their own vessels must first complete a 2-hour classroom training session and pass a 15-30 minute proficiency examination. In addition their vessel and related equipment must pass a safety inspection. This includes the lifting sling(s), which must display a certification certificate from ANSI or a similar rating agency.

Q. What does the training include?

A. Hoist operator training consists of instruction in the safe and correct operation of the hoist as well as associated launch and retrieval procedures and related State Park rules and regulations. State Park employees and volunteers also conduct a practical examination during which boaters demonstrate that they have mastered the proper hoist operation and launch/retrieval procedures and that their vessel complies with all safety requirements. A training handbook that describes the entire launch and retrieval procedure and also includes additional helpful information is provided.

Q. Where will the training be held?

A. The location of the classroom is provided at the time we confirm your reservation.

Q. How do I sign up for the training?

A. The easiest way to sign up for the training is to send an email to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov and request to attend the training session that's best for you. Reservation requests can also be mailed to California State Parks, #10 Refugio Beach Road, Goleta, CA 93117. Be sure to include your first and last name and a contact phone number. Requests without this information will not be accepted.

Q. Is there a charge for the training?

A. No. There is no charge for the training.

Q. Will more than one training session be scheduled?

A. Yes. We have already conducted some training sessions. The last two classes scheduled this year will be held on Saturday, December 30, at 9 AM and 12 PM. If additional classes are necessary, they will be scheduled and we will announce them via the email list as well as a media release.

Q. What happens when I successfully complete the training?

A. Your name will be placed on a list of boaters who have been approved to operate the hoist. We will issue one key card to the vessel owner. The card, which activates the hoist, will be matched to the vessel's CF number. Each card can only be used for the specific vessel to which it is assigned. The vessel owner may give the card to other persons who have also completed the training and have been certified to operate the hoist. It is the vessel owner's responsibility to make sure that the card is used only by certified hoist users and only for the vessel that the card is assigned to. Cards are subject to cancellation if these policies are not observed.

Q. Do you have to be a boat owner or bring my boat to complete the training?

A. No. California State Parks can provide a vessel for the practical examination. Please let us know in advance if you need us to provide one for you. However, all personal vessels must pass a safety inspection before they will be permitted to be launched and retrieved from the hoist at Gaviota State Park.

Q. Where can I get a copy of the NE&C Report?

A. The NE&C Report, "Boat Launch and Retrieval Facility Assessment Report," is a study of the boat hoist at Gaviota State Park that was conducted by Northeast Engineers and Consultants, Inc. over a 4-month period in early 2005. California State Parks contracted with NE&C to evaluate the mechanical and

operational aspects of the hoist to determine the cause(s) of prior accidents and breakdowns and provide recommendations to for eliminating them. The NE&C Report is available on the California State Parks website at the following address: http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=606.

Q. The NE&C Report indicates that the hoist must remain at 2-ton maximum rated capacity. What will be required to raise the limit?

A. See the NE&C Report, page 10; Section 4.1, under Hoist Load Rating. Because of the cost to strengthen the pier and other issues, we have no plans to increase the weight limit for vessels launched at Gaviota State Park.

Q. Will any of these changes affect beach launching?

A. No. Small boat operators can still launch from the beach at Gaviota State Park 7 days a week. We will be developing signage regarding beach launching guidelines and requirements and will also conduct spot checks to ensure that all beach-launched vessels possess the required safety equipment.

Q. I have to schedule time off from work or otherwise plan in advance to use my boat. It would be great if you would let us know when the hoist is going to be closed.

A. We will make every effort to announce planned maintenance of the hoist well enough in advance for boaters to plan accordingly. Boaters should also monitor multi-day weather reports for changing weather patterns that might create unsafe conditions and cause us to close the hoist. Unforeseen breakdowns or sudden weather changes are obviously impossible to predict in advance.

Q. Where can I get more information?

A. We strongly recommend that boaters request to be added to the Gaviota Boat Hoist email list to receive the latest news and developments concerning the hoist. Send your first and last name and your email address to gaviotahoist@parks.ca.gov. If your email address changes, notify us by sending us an email with your new contact information. You can also call 805-968-1033 for a recorded message about the hoist, which we update regularly.